

II. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs [0044] and [0045] of the specification as filed with the following paragraphs.

[0044] Depending upon the application, generally the sample processing components are molded parts and are solvent compatible. The sample processing devices include single well and multiwell devices. Metals, polyolefins and filled nylon are suitable materials of construction. Rarely used components can be machined. In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 and 7, the sample processing devices positioned between the base 12 and collar 14 are a filter plate 20 and a collection plate 22, both preferably being made of polyethylene, and thus the length of the lateral walls of collar 14 (and/or the side walls of the base 12) is made sufficient to accommodate these components when assembled to the base 12. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 11, the sample processing devices positioned between the base 12 and collar 14 are filter plates 20 and 20A and a collection plate 22. The filter plates 20 and 20A, and the collection plate 22 are configured for proper stacking and alignment as is known in the art.

[0045] The filter plates 20 and 20A includes a plurality of wells 21 and 21A, preferably arranged in an ordered two-dimensional array. Although a 96-well plate array is illustrated, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the number of wells is not limited to 96; standard formats with 384 or fewer or more wells are within the scope of the present invention. The wells are preferably cylindrical with fluid-impermeable walls, and have a width and depth according to the desired use and amount of contents to be sampled. The wells are preferably interconnected and arranged in a uniform array, with uniform depths so that the tops and bottoms of the wells are planar or substantially planar. Preferably the array of wells comprises parallel rows of wells and parallel columns of wells, such that each well not situated on the outer perimeter of the plate is surrounded by eight other wells. Preferably the plates 20 and 20A is are generally rectangular, and as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8, plate 20 is stacked on top of a collection plate 22.

Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 11, plate 20A is stacked on top of a plate 20, which is stacked on top of collection plate 22. The filter plates 20 and 20A can be of a conventional design.